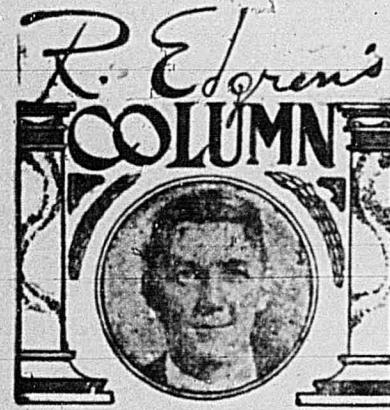


UP TO DATE  
AND NEWSY.COERCION CAN'T  
FORCE JEFF TO  
FIGHT JOHNSON

Efforts to "Knock" Champion of All Champions Will Have No Effect, for He Has Positively Drawn the Color Line.



would be foolish to offer a purse of any kind for a match between the great champion and a "pitiful negro" like Johnson.

Whereupon the disgruntled press agent burst out again yesterday, as follows:

"Jeffries would hate to have to finally take on the negro, Jack Johnson, who, despite all reports to the contrary, has engendered great fear in the heart of Jeffries. The big champion's friends have been shouting that Jeff does not know what the word fear means, a most ridiculous assertion from any point of view."

"Jeffries hates this negro, who forced him to retire, and is now forcing him back to the squared circle."

"Jeffries hides behind the skirts of his wife to get out of a battle with the negro, saying, 'My wife won't let me.'"

THIS kind of stuff will not assist in "getting even" with Jeffries for denying the alleged match with Johnson. Everybody knows that it really is trash.

Jim Jeffries is as brave a man as ever lived. I believe that he'd walk into a grizzly bear with a scimitar knife cheerfully if it became necessary. Jeffries doesn't need any defender of his fighting reputation. Jim isn't afraid of anything on two legs, or four either. When he was a comparative novice he fought and knocked out the great Bob Fitzsimmons, not very long after Jeffries himself had seen Fitz nearly kill Jim Corbett with a fierce smash in the solar plexus.

Before the Jeff-Fitz battle Fitzsimmons was a great favorite and everyone expected to see him slaughter the big, ungainly youngster. It took nerve for any one to tackle Fitz in those days, and Jeffries had the nerve. Jeffries told me afterward that the blows Fitz landed made him feel, as if he were being torn to pieces. But he stuck to his cool, deliberate plan of battle, and he won. Fitz would have made this "pitiful" Johnson jump out of the ring. Since taking the title from Fitz Jim Jeffries has been the world's greatest champion. It certainly is no "ridiculous assertion" that he "does not know what the word fear means." It's a plain fact. Every man who knows Jeffries resents the statement that this joke Johnson "forced Jeffries to retire."

Could anything but mere petty malice inspire the assertion that the greatest fighter America or the whole world ever produced "hides behind the skirts of his wife to get out of a battle with the negro?"

Johnson would be a "cheese" for Jeffries if the big fellow ever withdrew from the color line. The word "cheese" fits Johnson better than "lemon." A lemon is yellow only on the outside, while a cheese is yellow all the way through.

TOM SHARKEY put his hand into his pocket a day or two ago and drew out \$100, which he promptly handed over to Terry McGovern benefit fund. Tom may take cigar out of his pocket to treat, and he may do a few of the other funny economic stunts credited to him, but when it comes down to a real test of generosity in a good cause he is always on the spot.

Not long ago a dapper fellow drifted into Sharkey's and introduced himself to the sailor. "Tom," he said, "don't you remember me? I'm the fellow you licked at Vallejo in your first fight there. I'm sick, and I'm down and out. I want to go home."

Sharkey gave that man a ticket to California and money enough for his meals on the trip, with a few dollars thrown in for good luck. But this wasn't a funny tale, and it wasn't repeated up and down the line.

BATTING NELSON doesn't squirm a dollar as hard as some people think either. "He has told Sam Burns to count him in on the benefit for whatever is right," Wrote me Sam, "he said, 'and no matter where I'll come on and do all I can to help cut'."

Poor little Terry is down and out, and for Sam Burns' aid his family would be destitute. But he has thousands of friends still. Terry's benefit should be as great a success financially as any that was ever tendered to John L. Sullivan or Jim Driscoll—George Meader will be the wayward treasurer of the fund, and his address is No. 12 West Forty-second street. The annual carnival and testimonial benefit to Terry McGovern will be held in Madison Square Garden Wednesday evening.

NOW that Jack O'Brien and Tommy Burns have signed up for a twenty-five-round fight in Los Angeles Jim Jeffries can stay out until the minor squabble is settled. If Mr. Squires, of Australia, comes up in the interval he should be

## BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK.

EDITED BY  
ROBERT EDGREN.

## THE PUGILISTIC POT STILL BUBBLES MERRILY.

UNKNOWN BEATS STARS  
IN CROSS-COUNTRY RUN

With the zero mark threatening and biting winds pinching the noses of even the warmly clad and well protected, eighty-three martyrs to the cause of athletics clod only in light running togs, with head and arms and chest unprotected, started on yesterday on a long cross-country run, starting from the Star Athletic Club, of Long Island City. It was a courageous little regatta that darted away with the start's signal, facing a gale which blew against them determinedly and coldly. But the blood of the fleet-footed pack was up and a blizzard would not have stopped the runners from making the start, at any rate. But twenty of the less experienced were forced to drop out before the completion of the long race, and were given an honor roll for those who remained to the finish. It remained however for a hardy youngster, little thought of as a competitor, to lead the bunch from start to finish.

Nearly every athletic club in the metropolitan district was represented in the race, and the contestants were the other contestants hand-to-hand racing from ten to a thousand yards. Among the pack

who started several yards in front of E. Smith, of the Mohawk A. C. He had never before won a race of this sort and was succeeded by the others experienced, unable to have little or no chance to win. Before the start he stood in the doorway of the entrance, and the others who were to start would break from the cold. When the starter called the men together Smith ran an eighth of a mile to get warm.

A few minutes later, when the crossed signal was given, the runners covered the distance in thirty-eight minutes. Hevin went over the route in thirty-eight minutes and thirty-nine seconds; a few faster than T. H. Ryan, the third man to cross the line. The scratch men finished far behind. Jones was ninth, Carr tenth. Frank third, and the two others mentioned.

The Star Athletic Club was the club troth. Mott Haven A. C. was second, and the Irish-American A. C. third.

COLUMBIA ALUMNI SIGN  
PETITION FOR FOOTBALL

The students of Columbia University have not yet given up all hopes for football.

A petition is being circulated among the alumni of the university requesting the restoration of the game. It will be presented in a few days to President Brown and the Faculty Committee on Athletics.

The petition says in part:

"There has been a very noticeable decrease in the injuries resulting from the game, particularly in the larger colleges, having properly trained elevens. If statistics could be obtained we believe they would show that the injuries and fatalities in football during the past year have been less than in many other branches of sport, such as shooting, automobile, polo, hunting, swimming, skating, coasting, &c., in proportion to the numbers engaged."

"An undue amount of time should not be given to football, or to any other sport, in the detriment of university work. We are assured, however, by our coaches and the undergraduate management that if football is again played at Columbia it would not in any way be allowed to interfere with the regular studies of the students."

The position of athletics holds in the minds of the schoolmen preparing for college cannot be overlooked. How

ever, in the country throughout the land, football is in the ascendant.

Princeton is making a strong effort to secure this event in 1907, and will have the contention of Santons and Worcester to contend in the advantages offered. More than either will have the claim of the Jamestown Exposition, which is to be held in 1907.

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